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ABSTRACT

Even though Mexican Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States, their history and literature receive limited attention in schools. Incorporating Mexican American culture and history into the curriculum should help minimize the cultural myopia characteristic of many students and the cultural alienation that may contribute to school failure by Mexican American students. This digest summarizes the contents of various helpful resources, most of which have Web sites providing extensive information or full-text documents. Five research-related resources include on-line library collections, a multimedia encyclopedia, a virtual reference desk, and a national guide to rural Latino resources. Seven curriculum items include a public television series on Mexican American history, on-line collections of Mexican American art and culture, on-line teacher resources, a book chapter, and a Spanish-language Web site on Mexican cultural resources. Three publishers focus on bilingual and Spanish-language children's books and on books by and about U.S. Hispanics. Three Web sites feature Latino news, current events, popular culture, and links to student resources on Hispanic and indigenous heritage. (Contains 18 resources.) (SV)

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Cultural Resources for Mexican American Education

Timothy Collins & Robert Hagerman

Even though Mexican Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in the U.S., their history and literature receive limited attention in schools. Incorporating Mexican American culture and history into the curriculum should help minimize cultural myopia characteristic of many students and cultural alienation that frequently contributes to school failure by Mexican American students (Escamilla, 1996). This Digest summarizes the contents of a number of helpful resources, most of which are on-line, and includes both academic and commercial sites.

Research

Beginning Library Research on Chicano/Latino Studies

<http://wwwlibrary.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/adams/shortcu/chic.html>

Stanford University Libraries has extensive collections on the historical and contemporary experiences of Hispanic Americans, particularly Mexican Americans. This site is designed primarily for the Stanford community, but the bibliography of reference books might be quite helpful. The listings are categorized by encyclopedias and handbooks, bibliographies, periodical indexes, biographical resources, and statistical sources.

The Borderlands Encyclopedia

<http://www.utep.edu/border/inf.html>

The Borderlands Encyclopedia is a Web-based multimedia instructional resource on contemporary issues of the United States-Mexico border. It is also available on CD-ROM. Content areas include culture and media, economics and business, education and training, family life and population groups, government and politics, and health and environment. This site also maintains links to other resources.

The Center for Multilingual Multicultural Research

<http://www-rcf.usc.edu/~cmmr/>

The center, located at the University of Southern California (USC), focuses on four principal activities: research, publications, training, and public service. Areas of interest include the USC Latino and Language Minority Teacher Projects, bilingualism and English as a second language, multiculturalism, and Latino/Hispanic resources.

Latin American Network Information Center—Mexico Reference Desk

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/Mexico/>

This virtual reference desk from the University of Texas contains Web links for a variety of sources related to Mexico: anthropology and archaeology; arts and humanities; discussion groups; economy, finance, and trade; energy; general; government and public administration; history; indigenous peoples; magazines and periodicals; North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); network and information services; news; politics; popular culture; science and technology; social movements; sports; states and cities; telecommunications; and travel and tourism.

Rural Latino Resources: A National Guide. First Edition.

Rochin, Refugio I., and Emily Marroquin
East Lansing: Michigan State University. Julian Samora Research Institute, 1997. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 413 120)

This guide provides background information on rural Latinos and includes brief profiles of 98 social scientists, researchers, and educators who focus on the rural Latino population. Sections include:

- Information about the need to study rural Latinos, census data, distinctions between rural and urban Mexican Americans, characteristics of farms owned and operated by Latinos, issues of Latino population growth and concentration in rural areas, employment and community development issues; Latino poverty, Mexican immigration, population distribution, age, educational attainment, and language.
- Contact information and descriptions of work by the 98 specialists, listed alphabetically. Areas of specialty include agriculture and natural resources, the arts, demography, development, national and regional U.S. studies, economics, education, geography, health and medicine, history, labor, Latin America, migration and immigration, outreach, policy and politics, poverty, research methods, science and technology, social sciences, sociology, and rural groups other than Latinos.
- Descriptions of 44 organizations that focus on rural and Latino issues.
- Publications and other work produced by 68 of the rural Latino resource specialists.
- Publications about agriculture, farm labor, immigration, migrant education and health services, and rural poverty.

Curriculum Materials

Chicano! About the PBS Series

<http://www.pbs.org/chicano/about.html>

Chicano! History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement aired nationwide in 1996. In four one-hour programs, this public television series examines pivotal events concerning land, labor, education, and political empowerment that took place between 1965 and 1975, the period of the Mexican American civil rights movement in the United States. This site contains a series-related resources page, including photos and descriptions of the *Chicano!* videos, teaching and resource guide, and other materials. The biography page has information and pictures of key people from *Chicano!*, and the time line provides an in-depth look at Mexican American and American history.

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¡Del Corázón!

<http://nmaa-ryder.si.edu/webzine/index.html>

The National Museum of American Art and the Texas Education Network have partnered to produce *¡del Corazón!*, an interactive Web-based magazine that draws on the museum's rich Latino art collection. A distinctive graphic icon identifies each of its four main topics: artists, activities, themes, and comments. Each issue features the work of several Latino artists, along with audio and video clips. K-12 curricular activities are included, but teachers are encouraged to use the materials provided to create their own lessons and activities. Teachers can draw upon the various themes that run throughout the artwork.

Latino Resources at the Smithsonian

<http://web2.si.edu/opa/latino/start.htm>

This quick-reference on-line brochure has links to each Smithsonian facility. The links briefly describe each museum or office as well as the Hispanic, Latino, Latin American, Spanish, and Portuguese facets of its collections, research, programs, opportunities, products, and services.

Mexico Student Teacher Resource Center

<http://northcoast.com/~spdtom/>

This site posts research on Mexican history. Its main users are high school and college students looking for information for papers. The site is organized into various categories: Cortes, the Revolution, the Aztec, Diaz, French intervention, graphics, and research help. It also includes a message board and a conference/meetings calendar.

"Incorporating Mexican American History and Culture into the Social Studies Classroom."

Kathy Escamilla, Chapter 16 in: *Children of La Frontera: Binational Efforts To Serve Mexican Migrant and Immigrant Students.* Charleston, WV: ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools, 1996. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 393 631)

This chapter recommends elementary/middle and high school history texts and resources to use in finding Mexican American and multicultural literature. Literature to supplement historical topics includes historical fiction; folk tales and legends; and materials that cover contemporary culture, ordinary people, the changing status of women, biographies of famous Mexican Americans, and resistance to bias and discrimination.

México, Universidad de Guadalajara

<http://mexico.udg.mx/mexico4.html>

This Spanish-language site provides links to a variety of Mexican resources, including art, history, science, and religion.

Virtual Forum of Mexican Culture

<http://www.arts-history.mx/index2.html>

This site is a showcase of Mexican culture in both English and Spanish, with galleries featuring anthropology, archaeology, and contemporary and modern art. It also includes cultural institutions, such as museums, galleries, libraries, and contemporary dance companies, as well as photography, literature, a writer's dictionary, cultural projects, and books.

Publishers

Bilingual Review/Press

<http://mati.eas.asu.edu:8421/bilingual/HTML/>

The Bilingual Review/Press has published the works of Hispanic writers since 1974. Although the press features some bilingual and Spanish-only titles, most books are by or about U.S. Hispanics, and most are written in English. In addition to new works, classics of Chicana and Chicano fiction are available through the Clasicos Chicanos/Chicano Classics imprint. The site does not offer on-line ordering.

Center for the Study of Books in Spanish for Children and Adolescents

<http://coyote.csusm.edu/campus_centers/csb/index.htm>

The center, located at California State University, San Marcos, provides links to publishers and a search engine for Spanish-language books for toddlers through 12th graders. The center sponsors an annual conference and holds summer reading workshops, which can be taken for college credit.

Cinco Puntos Press

<http://www.cincopuntos.com/>

Cinco Puntos Press publishes books for children and adults, including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

Current Events/Popular Culture

Hispanic/Latino News Service

<http://www.latinowww.com/>

The Hispanic/Latino News Service (HLNS) is a bilingual Web site that provides daily updates of Latino news and that features opinions, interviews, and links for Hispanics. Every morning, the HLNS editor visits about 60 on-line media outlets looking for news pertinent to the Latino community. The editor then writes a one-paragraph summary of the news item and adds a link to the source material.

Hispanic Online

<http://www.hisp.com/>

This commercial site offers the Latino community chat rooms, events, issues of interest, message boards, and news. It is owned by *HISPANIC Magazine*, a monthly for and about Latinos with a national circulation of 250,000. There are numerous links to cultural sites, including visual and performing arts; history and ethnicity; and literature and books. Latino entertainment links include comedy and humor, movies with Latino actors or themes, music, and television. Religious links include sites on the Virgin Mary, churches, and religious education. Media links provide access to magazines, radio, and television, with a separate section for newspapers.

LatinoLink

<http://www.latinolink.com/>

LatinoLink is a commercial Web site with a popular focus. The student resources section's Hispanic heritage page contains links to articles on indigenous heritage, European and African roots, and diversity. It also has information about scholarships, internships, travel abroad, and mentorships. The arts and entertainment section lists links related to art, books, culture, television, music, dance, movies, and theater.

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